

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 220197

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220197

FOLLOWING REPEAT THE HAGUE 4620 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4620

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, NATO, NL

SUBJ: EC-9: CSCE FOLLOW-UP

1. SUMMARY: GON IS SATISFIED THAT, DESPITE FRENCH RELUCTANCE, IT HAS SUCCEEDED IN HAVING EC-9 AGREE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF CSCE FOLLOW-UP MACHINERY. END SUMMARY.
2. BETWEEN RETURN FROM VISIT TO ROME FOR EC-9 POL DIRECTORS MEETING LAST WEEK AND DEPARTURE FOR EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN VENICE SEPTEMBER 11-12, MFA DIRECTOR FOR NATO AND WE AFFAIRS VAN EEKELEN GAVE POLCOUNS RUNDOWN OF DUTCH EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE EC-9 FOR CSCE FOLLOW-UP.
3. JUST BEFORE HELSINKI, MFA CIRCULATED SUGGESTIONS FOR POST CSCE CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION AMONG EC-9. IN PARTICULAR, DUTCH POINTED OUT NEED FOR POOLED EFFORTS, IN INFORMATION, ANALYSIS AND COORDINATION, SO AS TO BE IN POSITION TO FACE

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PAGE 02 STATE 220197

SOVIETS AND EASTERN EUROPEANS AND PREPARE FOR COORDINATED

WESTERN POSITION IN BELGRADE IN 1977. AT HELSINKI THESE IDEAS HAD RUN INTO CONSIDERABLE FRENCH RESISTANCE. IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT PARIS REGARDED RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND EASTERN EUROPEANS AS "CHASSE GARDEE" AND THAT ELYSEE WISHED TO PRESERVE MAXIMUM FREEDOM OF ACTION.

4. DUTCH THEN DECIDED TO UP THE ANTE AND SENT AROUND, BEFORE ROME, EXPLANATORY MEMO ELABORATING AND PRESSING THEIR IDEAS. AT ROME IT QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT THAT EIGHT OF THE EC-9 AGREED AND, VAN EEKELEN NOTED WITH SATISFACTION, AS HAD HAPPENED BEFORE IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES, FRENCH FELT CONSTRAINED TO MODIFY THEIR STANCE. THOUGH AT FIRST THEY HAD ARGUED AGAINST A SEPARATE WORKING GROUP, AND AGAINST HAVING THIS GROUP TASKED WITH CONSULTATION AND WITH ISSUES OF IMPLEMENTATION, FRENCH HAD IN THE END COME AROUND AND RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO ALL THESE ELEMENTS.

5. COMMENT: THIS ACCOUNT, WHICH SEEMS TO BEAR OUT WHAT OTHERS ALREADY HAVE REPORTED, SHEDS SOME MORE LIGHT ON DETAILS, INCLUDING PRE-HELSINKI DUTCH INITIATIVE TO GET EC-9 ORGANIZED. IN THEIR PRE-ROME EXPLANATORY MEMO, DUTCH STIPULATED THAT WORKING GROUP SHOULD, OF COURSE, OPERATE IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, NOTABLY ALLIES. THRUST OF DUTCH THINKING HAS BEEN TO MAINTAIN WHAT HERE IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE WESTERN COORDINATION WITHIN EC-9 AND NATO THROUGHOUT CSCE NEGOTIATIONS. AS A MATTER OF POLICY DUTCH WANT WEST TO BE IN BEST POSITION TO DRAW MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE FROM FAVORABLE CSCE PROVISIONS, NOTABLY BASKET THREE. COPIES OF DUTCH PAPERS BEING POUCHED RPM-HELMAN. GOULD UNQTE SISCO

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